would integrate non-communicable diseases also in the programmes, develop proper urban surveillance systems, and optimize utilization of available resources and to bring about effective inter-sectoral cooperation among various agencies in the Health and Non-Health Sector.

Vacancies of members in MCI

1534. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Medical Council of India is functioning with only 77 members against the stipulated 123;

(b) if so, the reasons for not filling the vacancies of elected members in time; and

(c) the action taken against the officials for not taking timely action in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) At present out of the effective total strength of 118 members in the Medical Council of India, 73 seats are filled up.

(b) and (c) Among the 45 vacancies in the Council at present, 44 vacancies are from the elected category of members representing the Universities, the Registered Medical Graduates in the States and the persons with Licentiate medical qualification. In spite of repeated requests made by the Central Government and the Medical Council of India, some of the Universities and the Returning Officers who are required to conduct elections for these categories have not been able to do so for a long time due to various technical difficulties.